

In the Claims

Please add new claims 40-46.

1. (previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee via a factoring agreement between the seller and a financial institution, wherein the factoring agreement obligates the financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial institution is a factoring entity, a bank or a credit assurance company.

3. (previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller;

wherein the guarantee is a single transaction factoring agreement between the seller and the financial institution.

4. (previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller;

wherein the guarantee is a no-loan factoring agreement between the seller and the financial institution.

5. (previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller;

wherein the guarantee is a loan factoring agreement between the seller and the financial institution.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

posting the goods or services online at a web site; and

conducting the auction online at the web site wherein the one or more buyers submit their bids online.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one seller applies online for the guarantee by the financial institution prior to posting the goods or services for sale at the auction.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or more buyers applies online for a credit check prior to bidding on the goods or services for sale at the auction.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller is paid to the auction manager and/or financial institution.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the financial institution receives commissions from the at least one seller in consideration for providing the guarantee, and wherein the auction manager receives a commission for each guarantee provided by the financial institution.

12. (Previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller;

wherein the at least one seller applies for the guarantee by the financial institution prior to posting the goods or services for sale at the auction.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

posting the goods or services online at a web site; and

conducting the auction online at the web site wherein the one or more buyers submit their bids online.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein the at least one of the seller applies online for the guarantee by the financial institution.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein at least one of the one or more buyers applies online for a credit check prior to bidding on the goods or services for sale at the auction.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller is paid to the auction manager and/or the financial institution.

18. (Canceled)

19. (previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services; designating a winning buyer; providing a guarantee via a factoring agreement between the seller and a financial institution, wherein the factoring agreement obligates the financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller; and

providing the winning buyer with a period of time in which to inspect the goods or services before payment is due.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the financial institution is a factoring entity, a bank or a credit assurance company.

21. (previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services; designating a winning buyer;

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller; and

providing the winning buyer with a period of time in which to inspect the goods or services before payment is due;

wherein the guarantee is a single transaction factoring agreement between the seller and the financial institution.

22. (previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer;

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller; and

providing the winning buyer with a period of time in which to inspect the goods or services before payment is due;

wherein the guarantee is a no-loan factoring agreement between the seller and the financial institution.

23. (previously presented) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer;

providing a guarantee by a financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller; and

providing the winning buyer with a period of time in which to inspect the goods or services before payment is due;

wherein the guarantee is a loan factoring agreement between the seller and the financial institution.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

posting the goods or services online at a web site; and

conducting the auction online at the web site wherein the one or more buyers submit their bids online.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the at least one seller applies online for the guarantee by the financial institution prior to posting the goods or services for sale at the auction.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of the one or more buyers applies online for a credit check prior to bidding on the goods or services for sale at the auction.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller is paid to the auction manager and/or financial institution.

29. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the financial institution receives commissions from the at least one seller in consideration for providing the guarantee, and wherein the auction manager receives a commission for each guarantee provided by the financial institution.

30. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the time period is 30 days.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the guarantee by the financial institution extends to the auction and a second auction.

32. (previously presented) A method of operating an auctioning system, comprising:

conducting a plurality of auctions, wherein each auction comprises the steps of,

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

conducting the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a guarantee via a factoring agreement between the seller and a financial institution, wherein the factoring agreement obligates the financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the guarantee is provided to the seller in each auction in the plurality of auctions.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the plurality of auctions are conducted simultaneously.

35. (Previously presented) A method of providing an auction, comprising:

providing a plurality of factoring agreements to a seller, wherein the seller posts goods or services to be sold at the auction, and wherein each factoring agreement guarantees the seller payment of at least a portion of the funds due from a sale in the auction;

entering the seller into a factoring agreement;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services; and

conducting the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the plurality of factoring agreements includes a single transaction factoring agreement, a no-loan factoring agreement, and a loan factoring agreement.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of providing a plurality of factoring agreements to a seller is facilitated online.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of binding the seller to a factoring agreement is facilitated online.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the steps of providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services; and conducting the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services are facilitated online.

40. (New) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a single transaction auction agreement between the seller and a financial institution, wherein the agreement obligates the financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller in exchange for collecting the payment due from the winning buyer.

41. (New) A method for providing an auction, comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing an agreement between the seller and a financial institution that includes a fraud protection to the seller, wherein the agreement obligates the financial institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from the winning buyer to the seller and the fraud protection avoids nonpayment to the seller.

42. (New) A method for providing an auction,
comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services
to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or
services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein
the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

entering the seller and a financial institution into an
agreement, wherein the agreement obligates the financial
institution to pay at least a portion of the payment due from
the winning buyer to the seller after the seller attempts to
collect the payment due from the winning buyer.

43. (New) A method for providing an auction,
comprising:

providing at least one seller that posts goods or services
to be sold at the auction;

providing one or more buyers to bid on the goods or
services;

providing an auction manager to conduct the auction wherein
the one or more buyers bid on the posted goods or services;

designating a winning buyer; and

providing a factoring agreement between the seller and a financial institution, wherein the seller and the financial institution enter into the factoring agreement prior to the winning buyer being designated.

44. (New) An auction conducted over a computer network, comprising:

goods or services that are posted for sale at the auction; one or more bids on the posted goods or services; an auction manager that conducts the auction wherein the one or more bids bid on the posted goods or services and a winning bid is designated; and

a single transaction auction agreement between a seller of the goods or services that are the subject of the winning bid and a financial institution, wherein the agreement is entered into prior to the time the winning bid is designated, wherein the agreement obligates the financial institution to pay at least a portion of the winning bid to seller.

45. (New) The auction of claim 44, wherein the agreement is entered into prior to the time the goods or services are posted.

46. (New) The auction of claim 44, wherein the
agreement is a single transaction factoring agreement, a no-loan
factoring agreement or a loan factoring agreement.

71